

and any intervening claims. Claims 16-20 are withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, and 5-8 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1, 2, and 5-8 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "dry etching the organic insulating film and the inorganic insulating film using a mixed ratio gas that etches the organic insulating film faster than the inorganic insulating film." None of the cited references including Sakamoto, the Related Art, and Brandli, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2 and 5-8, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 9 and 12-15 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 9 and 12-15 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "dry etching the first insulating film and the second insulating film using a mixed ratio gas that etches the second insulating film faster than the first insulating film." None of the cited references including Sakamoto, the Related Art, and Brandli, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 and 12-15, which depend from claim 9, are allowable over the cited references.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully

requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Dated: April 7, 2003

Respectfully submitted,


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